A NEW ONE FOR PUBLIC USE.

JOINED WITH THE TILDEN FUND.

NEW-YORK WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE A PUBLIC

LIBRARY WORTHY OF A GREAT METROPOLIS-A JOINT COMMUTTEE PRESENTS A PLAN OF CONSOLIDATION-MORE THAN

IN THE TILDEN FUND-

WHAT IS SAID OF

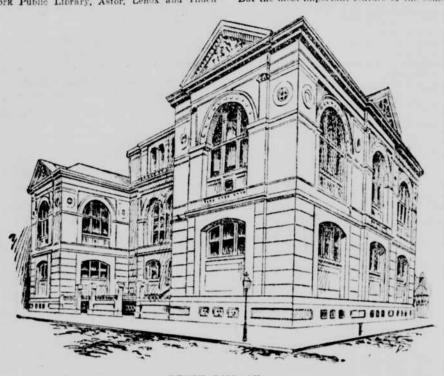
One of the most important steps taken in edu cational matters in this country in many years was taken on Washington's Birthday, when a joint committee, representing the Tilden Trust Fund, the Astor L'brary, and the Lenox Library, agreed upon a plan for the consolidation of those three libraries in one great public institution. The new library is to be known as "The New-York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden

GREAT LIBRARIES COMBINE. printed in other languages. Among them is a copy of the Mazarin Bible printed by Guttenburg & Faust in 1450. It is supposed to be the first complete printed book published. There are 5,000 books relating entirely to the United States. In 1893 the trustees of this library bought all of THE ASTOR AND LENOX INTERESTS TO BE the manuscripts and books of George Bancroft, the historian, which numbered 15,692 bound volumes and 4.648 jamphlets. The trustees have also recently bought the library of Dr. George H. Moore, which is one of the most valuable collections in existence on Colonial laws. Within two years the Rev. Dr. Wendell Prime presented his valuable collection of the various editions of "Don Quixote" to the library. In 1894, 2,395 readers visited this library, and 9,252 volumes were used.

Is94, 2,995 readers visited this horary volumes were used. In the Aster Library, according to the last annual report, there are 269,611 volumes, 8,294 volumes having been added in 1894. In 1894 78,901 persons visited the library as readers, making an increase of 9,993 over the number of readers in the preceding year. Last year 218,050 hooks were drawn out by readers, an increase of 7,675 over 1893. The consolidation of these two libraries would make a total of 374,350 books. Some of these are duplicated, but as the two libraries have been conducted on such different lines, the reduction in the number of volumes would not be great, so that the library would start off with a good 300,000 inwould start off with a good 300,000 in-

SUFFICIENT MONEY TO BUY NEW BOOKS To these would be added the collectica of

amuel J. Tilden. But the most important feature of the consoli-



LENOX LIBRARY. (From King's "Handbook of New-York City.")

libraries have not acted upon the suggestion of their joint committee, but from information obtained from men who are well acquainted with the Astor Library in 1894 the feelings of these trustees, there seems to be no doubt that the plan will be speedily carried

The suggestion of consolidating the Tilden | 054 05. Trust Fund and Library with the Columbia College Library, which was made about sixteen months ago, seems to have been the first step toward bringing about the greater consolidation of the Astor, Lenox and Tilden library interests. The difficulty of joining the Columbia Library with the Tilden Fund was that it would not have met the wishes of Samuel J. Tilden, whose essential idea was that the library should be free to the public. This matter was considered for some time, but was finally dropped. But seems to have led its supporters to begin casting about for consolidation with other libraries, with a view of best serving the interests

WORKING ON THE PLAN FOR MONTHS. Just how the Astor and the Lenox libraries thought on the part of several trustees of these Hbraries. The scheme of consolidation at once presented immense advantages to the minds of it the greater the advantages seemed. No definite action was taken in the matter, however, until last fall, although the plan was talked of in an informal way among the members of the several boards of tri stees.

About three months ago the plan was brought more prominently before the members of the boards of trustees, and it was finally decided that a committee from each board should be ap-

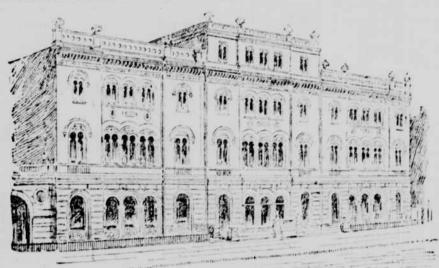
Foundations." As yet the trustees of these | dation would be the large sums of money available. of \$140,000 annual revenue.

It is the general idea of the joint committee which formulated a plan for the consollution of the three libraries to establish the new library

the three libraries to establish the new library on the site of the present Lenox Library Building, in Flith-ave. The Lenox Library is built in Flith-ave, taking in the entire block, fronting Central Park, between Seventieth and Seventy-first sts., and running back about 100 feet. The central Park, between Seventieth and Seventy-first sis, and running back about 100 feet. The entire block of land bounded by Fifth and Madisson axes, and Seventieth and Seventy-first sis belongs to the library, only a small portion of which at present is built upon. This gives ample room for the erection of a building that would accommodate a library of many times 200,000 volumes. Some objection has been raised to tals site on the ground that it is inconvenient to a large proportion of the population, and it has been suggested that this block of ground with the present building upon it be sold to great advantage and the money be used for the purchase of a plot of ground in a more convenient situation. The combined values of the three libraries would be about \$8,00,000.

When the joint committee was considering the consolidation of these three libraries it was suggested that several other libraries be included. The Mercantille Library, with its 246,000 volumes.

pointed. This joint committee was empowered to | The Mercantile Library, with its 246,000 volume



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the three boards for approval. A number of meetings were held in the house of one of the trustees. The representatives of the Astor Library were Bishop Potter, Dr. Thomas Masters Markoe, Edward King, president of the Union Trust Company, and John Lambert Cadwalader; of the Lenox Library, John S Kennedy, president of the Board of Trustees; George L. Rives and Alexander Maitian I; of the Tilden Trust Fund, Andrew H. Green, Alexander E. Orr and

This committee held a number of meetings, and at the final meeting, held on February 22, a plan was decided upon by which a board of trustees consisting of twenty-one members, seven from each of the three interests represented, are to have absolute control of all the property and revenues from endowments and other sources of the three libraries, subject only to such legal conditions as surround certain bequests which have been made to the libraries.

librariez in New-York-the Lenox and the Astor-together with the \$2,000,000 library fund left by Mr. Tilden, places at the hands of the proposed Board of Trustees ample means for establishing one of the finest libraries in the world. The Lenox Library is noted for the value of the manuscripts within its walls. According to the last annual report, the total number of its pamphlets and bound volumes was 113,739, including 700

In this collection are 2.260 varieties of Bibles the English language and 1,200 Bibles

was suggested as suitable for consolidation, but as it is conducted as a private library, having a subscription of \$5 a year, it was thought inexpedient to consider that. There are other free libraries in the city, however, that were suggested. Among them are the New-York Free Circulating Library, having its headquarters in Bond-st; the Mechanics Library, at No. 13 East Sixteenth-st., and the Aguilar Library with its 25-354 volumes. The Aguilar Library has three branches; one at No. 121 Lexington-ave., and the third at No. 624 East Fifth-st. The Mechanics' Library, according to its last report, has 38,074 volumes. All of these libraries have considerable endowment funds, while the New-York Free Circulating Library receives \$25,000 a year from New-York City, and the Mechanics' Library also receives a large sum annually from the city.

City, and the Mechanics' Library and large sum annually from the city, large sum annually from the city, The difficulty of consolidating so many libraries at once, however, prevented the committee from including these in the plan. It was thought best to consolidate first the Astor, the Lenox and the manual libraries and then, when these were in the consolidate first the Astor, the Lenox and the manual libraries and then, when these were in the consolidate first the Astor, the Lenox and the manual libraries and then when these were in the consolidate first the Astor, the Lenox and the libraries and then when these were in the consolidate first the Astor, the Lenox and the libraries and then the large to consolidate first the Astor, the Lenox and the Tilden libraries, and then, when these were in proper working order, the question of drawing in others could be considered to better advantage. The plan of consolidation is now in the hands of the trustees of these three libraries. No definite action has been taken by them as yet, but the subject will come up for discussion and action at their next regular meetings. The trustees of the Astor Library will meet on March 13, but a special raceting may be called before that time.

The trustees of the Astor Library are Mayor William L. Strong (ex-officio), Thomas Masters Markoe, Professor Henry Drisler, of Columbia College; John Lambert Cadwalader, Bishop Potter, Stephen Van Rensselaer Cruger, Robbins Litter.

College; John Lambert Cadwalader, Bishop Fol-ter, Stephen Van Rensselaer Cruger, Robbins Lit-tle, Stephen Henry Olin, Edward King, Charles Howland, Russell and Philip Schuyler. The cost of the site and buildings of the Actor Library was \$481,059.20. The cost of the books in the library fincluding only those purchased from the Library Endowment Fund) is \$233,967.34. The catalogues were procured at an expense of \$36,975.04, while the equipments cost \$23,532.59. The total endow-ment of the library is \$2,105,871.87. The trustees

Continued on Third Page.

RIG FIRE IN TORONTO.

PROPERTY WORTH \$2,000,000 DESTROYED WITHIN TWO HOURS, AND THE FLAMES

STILL SPREADING Toronto, March 3.-Fire started in Simpson's dry-goods store, the largest establishment of the kind in the city, at 1 o'clock this morning, and in less than thirty minutes had completely destroyed it. At this hour, 2:45 a, m., the fire has destroyed property valued at \$2,000,000, and is still spreading. Knox Church is now burning.

THE ALERT ORDERED TO PANAMA.

AFFAIRS ON THE ISTHMUS BELIEVED TO BE MORE

SERIOUS THAN IS GENERALLY KNOWN. Washington, March 2.-Secretary Herbert this aftermoon cabled peremptory orders to Commander George Ide, of the Alert, now at San José de Guatemala, to proceed with all possible speed to Panama, and protect American interests there. The dispatch was sent after a conference with Secretary Gresham, and is understood to have resulted from a long cipher dispatch from Captain fromwell, of the Atlanta, at Colon, indicating ere serious state of affairs on the lathmus

The State and Navy departments declined to give tny further information about the matter, but it s understood that Captain Cromwell advised that the usual riots which occur on the Isthmus when Colombia is in a state of revolution were apt to be precipitated at any time, and American lives and property would require protection. The Alert is 50 miles from Panama, and should reach there by Tuesday. The Ranger is at Buena Ventura, lles south of Panama, but she is probably rejuired there as a refuse for Luther F. McKinney. lesire to leave the country. It is said at the State Department that, though he is supposed to be at some time, and his silence is explained by the

A FURNESS LINE STEAMER ASHORE.

THE VENETIAN ON A LEDGE, WITH A RIG

Hoston, March 2.—The four-masted Furness Line

GOV. LUANS ISSUES AN ADDRESS.

TEST HE IS FORCEILTO MAKE IN TENNESSEE.

ple of Tennessee in which he reviews at length the Gut rnatorial question, and explains his position in the matter. He closes by saying?

In the matter. He closes by sayling:

I find I em engaged in an unequal contest. The entire power of the State Government is attraye against me. So far, it is true, the milita has no been called into requisition, but if there is an other portion of the machinery or paraphernalia of the State Government that has not been pressed interview. I am not advised. I be lieve that I am not having the distinction of being the first legally elected Governor of Tennessee, or any other State who was accorded the privilege of being contested while by a special arrangement under the forms of law, the candidate defeated by the people is persisted to hold over he office, usurp its responsibilities be burdened with its salary, and be contested all at the same time, and that before a tribunal him selected and under a so-called law passed a his request, to which be attached his official, approval. Have we a republican form of government.

DISASTROUS FLOODS FEARED.

RIVERS SWOLLEN BY THE RAIN AND THAW-

THREATENING ICE GOEGES. seposit, Md., March 2.—The situation here is coming more alarming. Rain began falling las hecoming more australia. Fram began lating last night and has already caused a rise of several feet in the Susquehanna. Prior to the cold weather of the bilgzard the ice from the Baltimore and Ohlo Bridge, four miles below this city, to Conowingo. eight miles above, was gorged in many places to the oftom of the river, from ten to thirty feet deep.

LIIID CONGRESS EXPIRING.

ITS LAST LEGISLATIVE DAY.

EXCITING NIGHT SCENES IN BOTH BRANCHES.

IT LOOKS LIKE AN EXTRA SESSION.

THE SENATE REFUSES TO RECEDE FROM THE HAWAHAN CARLE AMENDMENT-A STRUGGLE OVER THE NAVAL BILL-THE HOUSE VOTES TO PAY THE SUGAR BOUNTY

> AND PASSES SEVERAL BILLS UN-RULES-CONFERENCE RE-PORTS PRESENTED.

Washington March 2 .- When the Senate met at 11 a. m. to-day it entered upon the last legisthough this Congress does not expire till Monday next at noon, its existence will be continued by recesses, not adjournments. Of the eighty-eight members of the present body sixteen will cease to be Senators at that hour, and two others have Butler (S. C.), Camden (W. Va.), Carey (Wyo.), Coke (Texas), Dixon (R. L), Dolph (Ore.), Hunton (Va.), McLaurin (Miss.), McPherson (N. J.), Manderson (Neb.), Martin (Kan.), Power (Mont.), Ransom (N. C.), Waish (Ga.), Washburn (Minn.) and Wilson (Iowa). The two whose cases are in suspense are Senators Higgins (Del.) and Shoup (Idaho).

The only real, pressing work absolutely necessary to be transacted before the class of the Senate amendments providing for the payment of the sugar bounty.

Mr. Sayres moved that the rules be suspended and the House insist on its disagreement to the remaining arguments. Agreed to, At 3 a. m. the House was still in session, discussing the conference report on the Indian bill.

sary to be transacted before the close of this Congress when the Senate met to-day was the passage of the Naval Appropriation bill and action on conference reports in the cases of eight appro

Lodge declared passionately that rather than

Senate referred, by a vote of 32 to 27, to recede from its Hawaiian cable amendment

Conference reports on the District of Columbia and the Legislative

p. m., leaving four of the appropriation bills-

The first session of the last day's proceedings of the House in the Lilld Congress lasted from orrect as to non-production of poll-tax receipts in | noon until 6 o'clock | In that period a considerertain districts and make to further contest as able amount of business was transacted under was proved that it has out to the selection challenged election ludges had ratisfied themselves that voters had and their politicates, but withstanding this was the last legislative day of confusion, and little delay was occasioned. Among the measures passed by unanimous conthe Indian Territory in office until the bill providing for the reorganization of the courts of the Territory becomes a law; Senate joint resolube held at Louisville next fall, condemned cannon the Encampment; Senate bill to reimburse officers and scamen for property lost or destroyed in the naval service of the United States; Senate bill donating Fort Hayes Reservation to the State of Kansas for part and school purposes; Senate Joint resolution extending the time within relating to the value of improvements on the Monongahela River, Pennsylvanta, by the Monongabela Navigation Company; Senate bill establishing harbor regulations for the District of

lowing bills: Giving to the widow of Rear-Admiral Earl English a pension of \$59 a month; regulating the sale of milk in the District of Columbia; increasing the pension of Hosea Brown, a veteran of the War of 1812, to \$60 a month; authorizing the erection of a statue in the District of Columbia of the late Professor Samuel Gross, of Philadelphia, and appropriating \$1,500 for a pedestal therefor; the Agricultural Appropriation bill, and a partial agreement upon the Indian Ap-

Under suspension of the rules, a bill was passed

water cuts a chantel through it, this town, as well as Perryville and Havre de Grace, will soon experience the worst flood ever known about here. Pittsburg, March 2—The river marks here show 16.5 feet and rising rapidly. The Oll City leggorge broke at 10.20 a.m., and it is expected that the great Kittanning gorge will break soon.

Akron, Ohio, March 2—High water in the Cuyahoga River is doing considerable damage to the low country near here. The ice, which has formed several garges, threatens a number of bridges. The value gracks were washed out in three places yesterlay morning, and trains were delayed several hours.

East Liverpool, Ohio, March 2—Two towboats of this city were sunk by the breaking of a gorge yesteriay. The value of the boats is about £10,00, and it is thought they will begintal losses. At Line Island, near here, several barges were sunk, and their cargoes, valued at \$50,600, are thought to be ruined.

AN INCENDIARY FIRE DOES \$2,200 DAMAGE Akron, Ohio, March 2—The works of the Akron Chino, Chino, March 2—The works of the Akron Chino Company were destroyed by fire at 1 o'clock this morning. The fire started in a pile of straw in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-house, and is believed to have been in the packing-hous

directing the publication of an edition of 10,000 copies of the report of the commission appointed

Tribune.

copies of the report of the commission appointed by President Cleveland to investigate the Chicago railroad strike last summer. At 6 o'clock a re-cess was taken until 8 p. m.

The novelty of a night session drew a crowd of curious people to the Capitol. At 8 o'clock the galleries were crowded to suffocation. The night was close and humid, and the air within the chamber was at times stiffing, notwith-standing the frantic efforts of the doorkeepers to secure ventilation. The women, who formed a large part of the audience, plied their fans to secure ventilation. The women, who formed a large part of the audience, plied their fans vigorously and looked as uncomfortable as the patrons of a summer opera. There was considerable confusion on the floor of the House which was broken from time to time by the sound of the Speaker's gavel, and his almost plaintive appeals, "The House will be in order." At one point in the proceedings, the confusion in the galleries was so great that the Speaker threatened to clear them if it were not restrained. As the night wore on the spectators gradually returned to their homes, and at midnight the galleries were practically deserted.

The first business which came before the House at the evening session was the amendment to the Sundry Civil bill appropriating \$150,000 for the

Sundry Civil bill appropriating \$150,000 for the purchase of the Blaine property in this city. The House almost unanimously refused to concur. The amendment creating a retired list for the officers of the Revenue Cutter Service met a like fate. The amendment appropriating \$125,000 for the heirs of the Ford's Theatre disaster victims and the conference report on the District of Columbia appropriation were agreed to.

At half an hour after midnight the House was preparing to vote upon the Senate amendment appropriating \$5,000,000 under the hounty clause of the McKinley law to the sugar growers of the

of the McKinley law to the sugar growers of the country. Debate on this amendment began at 19 o'clock and was conducted with great vigor on both side.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL.

Washington, March 2.- The arrest and imprisonent of two Cubans, Sanguilli and Aguirre, claiming to be American citizens, for participation in the dutionary movement in Cuba, was this morning called to the attention of the Senate by Mr. Call Fia.), who presented a telegram received by mittee on Foreign Relations, with a request that the committee act promptly in the matter. The conference report on the Fortifications bill

was presented by Mr. Call and read and concurred in, leaving seven other appropriation bills still in

At 11:35 the Naval bill, the last of the great appropriation bills, was taken up and the Senate proeeded to consider it. The first committee amend-000 to 1,000 the number of additional seamen that Mr. Lodge (Rep., Mass.) arguel against the amend-

ent and appealed to the Senate not to cripple the great arm of the public service which was likely to be called upon at any moment to proalso expressed the hope that the amendment

id be voted down. (Dem., Md.), in charge of the bill, explained and defended the amendment as being really in the interest of the Navy. The bill had come from ting I beral appropriations for building up of depression and in the present condition of the Treasury, would only react against the Navy The was most extraordinary in the fact that it appropriated more than the Secretary of the Navy asked \$5,502,000; the House bili appropriated \$31,686,000. The amount now reported to the Senate was a reduction

ate would disagree to the committee amendments

HILL COMPLIMENTS CHANDLER. Mr. Hill (Dem., N. Y.) said that he did not wish on the completion of a seagoing navy which the bill contemplated. He yielded to no one in commendation of the saggetty and energy with which the strengthening of the Navy was undertaken by the Senator from New-Hampshire (Mr. Chandler) Whitney. But he wished that, at the same time, greater consideration had been given to the ad-

whitney. But he wished that, at the same time, greater consideration had been given to the advice of Governor Titlet respecting seaboard defences he went on to cite illustrations of remarkable occurrences in American history where the American cause prevailed, not because of a powerful navy, but because the State Department was in the hands of strong men—Fish, Marcy and other Secretaries—and he expressed the wish that there could be a permanent equipment of the State Department. So that, though Secretaries might come and go a conscientious and learned staff would remain.

Mr. Platt (dep., Conn.) said that although the pending amendment was not a very important one, it opened up the whole question as to the policy of the country in regard to a navy. National respect was largely measured in this world by the power of navies. Even Japan, through its havy and the successes of its navy, was assuming rank among the secondary Powers of the earth. Therefore a consideration of American interest among the nations required that congress should not be guilty of any false economy in the matter of providing for a strong naval establishment. The country would have to be prepared for all contentions that might arise. The very preparation for such contentions, and the fact that the Unified States was in a position to defend itself, would be the things that would avoid bloodshed, strife and collision.

Mr. Adirich (Rep., R. I.) said that he had heard

Infeed States was in a position to defend itself, would be the things that would avoid bloodshed, strife and collision.

Mr. Aidrich (Rep., R. I.) said that he had heard no argument or suggestion on the part of the Appropriations Committee or any of its friends why the amendment should be adopted. He hoped that it would be voted down. Perhaps \$100,00,000 had been expended on new ships for the last ten years; but of what value, he asked, were ships unless, if emergencies arose, they could be manned and equipped?

Mr. Chandler (Rep., N. H.) said that he would support the amendment, relying on the judgment of the committee. No great harm could be done if the full complement of men was not on board each ship in a time of peace; and, assuming that the committee had reasons for reporting the amendment, he would support it. He favored, however, appropriations for procuring suitable guns for the armament of the Paris, New-York and the other two ships of the same line now being built and which might be regarded as an auxiliary navy. He would have the gugs so located that they could be placed on these ships at an hour's notice.

Mr. Hunton read a letter from the Secretary of the Navy showing that the new vessels to be completed not later than December, 185, will require 2,800 seamen, but that as all the vessels would not be in commission at the same time, he would only ask authority to enlist 2,000.

MR. GORMAN PLEADS FOR ECONOMY Mr. Gorman said that for the next six months the additional 1,000 men provided for in the amendment would be all that could be properly utilized. What the committee proposed was to make provision for the future, not to cripple the Navy, and to let the next Congress deal with the Navy, and to let the next Congress deal with the future increase. He gave notice to Senators that if all the appropriations voted for by the Senate within the last two or three days and by the House within the last two or three weeks became law, the aggregate appropriations at this session would be more than \$52,000,000—a larger amount than was ever appropriated before, and that, too, in the face of a depleted Treasury. He submitted, therefore, that this was not the time for extraordinary haste in making appropriations. The committee had not been unfair to the present Administration; for the President had wisely said in his message at the beginning of this Congress that so much money had been appropriated for new ships for the Navy that all that could be done would be to spend it. It had not all been spent yet. The Navy Department and its friends complained because the Appropriations Committee had reported

THE NEWS OF EUROPE.

MINISTERS IN OFFICE BY FORBEARANCE OF ENEMIES AS MUCH AS BY SUPPORT OF FRIENDS.

CARINET CONTROL OF THE COMMONS-BIMETAL LISM-MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S VOTE-OPIUM IN-VESTIGATION-A SOUTH AFRICAN AP--COUNTY COUNCIL ELEC-TION-ADVANCEMENT OF

PRINCE LOBANOFF.

[BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE] (Copyright; 1895; By The Tribune Association) London, March 2.-The Government maintain their policy of holding on, and the business done in Parliament during the last week has once more shown that they owe their maintenance in office as much to the toleration of their enemies as to the support of their friends. If the Opposition had cared to make a vital issue over the debate raised by Sir Henry James upon cotton duties, the Ministry would have been defeated last week. Again, two days ago, they would have met with disaster in the division upon appropriating private members' time, if their own radical critics had cared to confirm their grievances in the division lobby. The result of that proceeding once more showed that the Ministerial majority hardly exceeded a baker's dozen, and the conclusion drawn therefrom confirms the public opinion as to

the uncertainty of Lord Rosebery's tenure.

Thursday's demand for all the time of the House of Commons except Wednesday and Friday evenings illustrates the growth of Cabinet gule. No one but the Government can initiate anything, and everybody knows that the Government can carry none of its important bills. Nevertheless, the necessities of party warfare make it imperative that the programme be tabled and dealt with, though to-day's Liberalism has decayed into fretting and helpless sectarianism. This remark especially refers to the Weish Church Disestablishment bill. It may be advanced a few stages beyond the measure of last year, and possibly may reach the Lords; but it will never escape alive from the gilded chamber. The prospects of the Iris: Land bill are understood to have improved since it became known that provisions of a voluntary character have been introduced for dealing with evicted tenants. This will recommend the measure to those Unionist members who take the tenant farmers' view of the land question.

The bimetallist debate last Tuesday was the ablest upon that subject that has ever been witnessed in the House of Commons. It also showed the weakness of the Government. The Cabinet is opposed to bimetallism. The Chantellor of the Exchequer made a powerful speech with great ability; but in the end he agreed to Everett's resolution for another monetary conference, apparently because he was afraid to challenge a division, or because he feared the anger of the Liberal bimetallists. He possibly realized that bimetallism is spreading, especially in the manufacturing districts; but, whether that be so or not, it is absolutely certain that no British Government will have the courage to adopt it. The present Ministry is opposed to it almost to a man. The Opposition leaders are of though he is a strong factor in the situation he is unlikely to make any converts. His political friends make no concealment of their surprise at his views upon this subject. It any one desires et them read Sir William Harcourt's speech.

Mr. Chamberlain has contributed to the merri-

ment of his radical critics by what the newsto strengthen the bands of the Secretary of the Navy, and he therefore saw with regret not only cluded. A division was taken in the usual for cluded. A division was taken in the usual form and Mr. Chamberlain found himself in the wrong the Speaker whether every member present dur-Mr. Morgan (Dem., Ala.) concurred fully with the remarks of the Senator from Virginia. It was vote. The Speaker replied that such was the case, not easy to pick up efficient sailors at a moment of surprise and danger. If there was anything in the country that needed systematic building up and thorough training, it was the suipment of a men, stokers and engineers. The country could not afford to have a many without a proper and sufficiently full equipment of men.

The Spender repider that such was the case, but that the duty could be avoided by means which were perfectly well known to members. The House laughed uproariously at this observation, for the means referred to related to the simple expellent of concealment in the lavatory, and this was the course which Mr. Chamberlain was credited with having adopted. The incident recalls an experience in the life of Sir Walter Barttelot. On one occasion during the Irish allnight sittings that gentleman strayed into the lobby among the Irishmen. He was a stout old Tory, and rather than vote against his party he slipped into the lobby lavatory and turned the key. The tellers immediately announced that a member had not recorded his vote, whereupon the Speaker sent the sergeant at-arms and the janttors to fetch Sir Walter into the Chamber. The sergeant solemnly struck his sword against the layatory door and shouted, "Sir Walter Barttelot, come out," and amidst the laughter of the Hous he was marched up the floor in the sergeant's custody to record his vote at the clerk's table. Mr. Chamberlain escaped that indignity through the fact that his omission to vote was not noticed at the time the division was taken.

The oplum faddists have just succeeded in committing Great Britain to a very heavy item of expenditure. Though the Opium Commission has not yet reported, it is known that the results of their labors will tell very heavily against the views of the anti-opium party. In order to appease that party the Government permitted the commission to be established and undertake a very expensive tour around India. The Government had abundant evidence that there was no justification for the outery against opium, but they had not the courage to refuse the demands of the opium faddists, al. of whom sit on the Ministerial side of the House. The Government shirked their responsibility by appointing a commission, and they have now recognized the injustice of asking India to bear the cost by announcing that the entire charge will be met by the English Exchequer.

The appointment of Sir Hercules Robinson to succeed Sir Henry Loch occasions no small surprise. Sir Hercules is over seventy years old; he had retired from the public service and had become a director in several South African companies; but Mr. Cecil Rhodes is a masterful man, and when last in England demanded that Sir Hercules should return to the Cape. Mr. Rhodes and Sir Henry have not always been in harmony. Sir Henry is a mild, timid bureaucrat, what is called a "fair-weather Governor," and Mr. Rhodes was not ill pleased to have a change; but Sir Hercules's selection is sure to be questioned in Parliament. The Commons will hardly tolerate his connection with the Chartered Company, the De Beers Company and the Standard Bank, all of them interests in the part of Africa

that he will be cailed upon to govern. A subject of far more widespread interest than frost or bursting water pipes or the fate of the Government or the chauvinistic follies of the French is the prevalent epidemic of influenza. There is scarcely a warehouse or shop employing a score of hands that has not been invaded. Private houses are infected over the whole area of the mecropolis. A thousand of Metropolitan police, representing a twelfth of the whole number, have been seized by this demon. Over 200 members of the Stock Exchange and 300 postoffice clerks are ill. One theatre is closed, and